

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 3, 4, 5 and 8 to read as follows:

1. (Original) A tire wheel having a disk and a rim for mounting a pneumatic tire joined to a peripheral edge of the disk, the rim having left and right cylindrical bead seats with a hump which protrudes thereon and left and right annular rim flanges joined to and extending wheel-radially outwardly from outer side edges of the bead seats,

wherein a ring-like thick element extending along a circumferential direction of the wheel is provided on a portion of the bead seat located between the hump and rim flange of the rim located on the inner side of a vehicle when attached thereto.

2. (Original) A tire wheel according to claim 1, wherein a cross-section area of the thick element is 0.1 to 4.0 times larger than the cross-section area represented by a product $E \times T$ in a wheel-radial cross section taken along a plane which passes through an axis of rotation of the wheel, wherein E is a sum of a thickness F_t of the rim flange located on the inner side of a vehicle when attached thereto and a wheel width direction length E_w of the bead seat portion, and T is a thickness of a portion of the rim body adjacent to the hump located on the inner side of a vehicle when attached thereto.

3. (Currently Amended) A tire wheel according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the thick element is provided on a radially inner side of an outer side end of the bead seat portion opposed to the rim flange.

4. (Currently Amended) A tire wheel according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein the thick element is unitarily formed on a radially inner side of the bead seat portion.

5. (Currently Amended) A tire wheel according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein the thick element is formed from a ring member which is fixed to a radially inner side of the bead seat portion.

6. (Original) A tire wheel according to claim 5, wherein the ring member is formed of a material which is lower in specific gravity and/or has a rigidity higher than that of the bead seat.

7. (Original) A tire wheel according to claim 6, wherein the ring member is formed of an alloy of magnesium.

8. (Currently Amended) A tire wheel according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 7~~, wherein the disk and the rim are formed of lightweight metal.

9. (Original) A tire wheel according to claim 8, wherein the lightweight metal is an alloy of aluminum or magnesium.